

PRINCE FREDERICK, MD - Congressman Steny Hoyer visited seniors at the Calvert Pines Senior Center and met with representatives from each of the three Senior Centers in Calvert County today to discuss their important initiative to collect used cell phones that seniors can use in an emergency. Congressman Hoyer donated over twenty used cell phones to the Calvert County Office on Aging.

“I think this program is a wonderful opportunity for seniors that offers them a sense of personal security while still allowing them to maintain their independence,” said Congressman Hoyer. “These specially adapted “used cell phones” will allow seniors to power up the phone, call 911 and know services are on the way.”

It is estimated that 75 million cell phone handsets will be retired from service in the U.S. this year. Cell phones and their batteries contain many hazardous materials that can harm the environment if not disposed of properly. This program is helping to preserve the environment by keeping phones out of landfills in addition to giving seniors an opportunity to increase their sense of personal safety.

Old cell phones can be reprogrammed for callers to reach 911 in a time of emergency. The phone may be used in an emergency while traveling or during a phone service disruption at home.

Anyone interested in donating cell phones to the Office on Aging can drop them off at the Calvert Pines Senior Center in Prince Frederick, Southern Pines Senior Center in Lusby, and North Beach Senior Center in North Beach. Any and all cell phones will be accepted. Those turning in cell phones are requested to turn in any battery or charger that comes with the phone. All phones should be deactivated before turning them in.

If you are interested in obtaining a phone, you can contact Sandy Marquess at the Calvert Pines Senior Center at 301-855-1170 or 410-535-4606; Rebecca Cranston at the Southern Pines Senior Center at 410-586-2748; or Ricca Baker at the North Beach Senior Center at 410-257-2549.

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